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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/072,697	02/07/2002	Jeffrey M. Wendlandt	1001.1440101	2520
28075	7590	03/23/2004	EXAMINER	
CROMPTON, SEAGER & TUFTE, LLC 1221 NICOLLET AVENUE SUITE 800 MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55403-2420			PANTUCK, BRADFORD C	
		ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER	9
DATE MAILED: 03/23/2004				

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/072,697	WENDLANDT, JEFFREY M.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Bradford C Pantuck	3731

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 01 February 2004.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-6 and 8-21 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) 1-6, 8, 9, 11-13, 15, 16, and 18-21 is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 10, 14 and 17 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on 07 February 2002 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

1. Claims 10, 14, and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,016,369 to Parry in view of U.S. Patent No. 3,828,772 to Thiele. Parry discloses a clip and a method of using it, as shown in Figure 2, with two pieces. The first piece (2) has a first base (4) and a first projection (5) extending from the first base [see Fig. 1]. The second piece (3) has a second base (9) and a second projection (10) extending from the base [see Fig. 1]. The second projection includes multiple surfaces (interior), which define a reservoir (12). The two pieces are detachably connectable when the first projection (5) passes into the reservoir (12) [see Fig. 1; Column 2, lines 50-68]. The top surface of Parry's multiple surfaces is a puncturable material (14). The first projection (5) is adapted to pierce through the top surface (14) [Column 3, lines 21-24; Fig. 2]. The reservoir of Parry's clip contains a therapeutic agent—i.e. a sterilizing substance or other drug [Column 3, lines 1-3]. Parry discloses a second projection 10', in which an aperture is formed when the first projection (5') pierces it [Column 3, lines 21-24]. A therapeutic agent flows out of this aperture after the two pieces are connected [Column 2, lines 12-15].

Parry does not refer to his therapeutic agent as a "sclerosing agent," but his therapeutic agent acts as a sclerosing agent. Parry discloses filling the reservoir with

a "sterilizing substance"—a material that would kill microorganisms [Column 1, lines 45-50]. Further, Parry explains that this material should "at least act to disinfect the wound and maintain aseptic conditions while the wound heals" [Column 4, lines 23-28]. Thiele teaches that ethanol (i.e. alcohol), *the most well-known disinfecting agent in the world* is a sclerosing agent. Therefore, Parry's sterilizing substance can be also called a "sclerosing agent."

Allowable Subject Matter

2. Claims 1-6, 8, 9, 11-13, 15, 16, and 18-21 are allowed.

Conclusion

3. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

U.S. Patent No. 6,059,766 to Greff

Response to Arguments

4. Upon further consideration Examiner deems Parry's sterilizing substance to be a sclerosing agent. At first glance, the term "sclerosing agent" appeared to be an art specific, technical, limiting term, however (as taught by Thiele) this is not the case. It appears that many substances are capable of being used as sclerosing agents or sterilizing agents. Upon further consideration, Examiner cautions that most any liquid heated to a high temperature will act as a sterilizing agent [see Greff; column 3, lines 43-46]. Parry's definition of sterilizing substances is quite broad and includes many different substances: see Column 1, lines 64-68. Applicant is invited to claim

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the invention using a Markush claim, listing certain substances that Applicant considers to be sclerosing agents. However, *Applicant must provide evidence, in the form of an affidavit or a declaration by a pharmaceutical/chemical expert that such substances are not capable of use as sterilizing substances.*

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Bradford C Pantuck whose telephone number is (703) 305-8621. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:30-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael J Milano can be reached on (703) 308-2496. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Michael Milano
Supervisory Patent Examiner
Art Unit 3731

BCP
BCP

March 11, 2004